

THE STIRRAP

A NEWSLETTER BY THE WYOMING STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION - YOUNG PRODUCERS ASSEMBLY

THE HEADSTALL - A MESSAGE FROM YPA PRESIDENT SAGE ASKIN

CHANGE IS HARD!

Have you ever been told you are in a rut? Or that you are stuck in your ways? I'm here to share that you probably are. So am I, and so is everyone else!

Trying to regress to some level of stasis is the human condition. We have in ranching often scratched and clawed so hard for what we have, that it makes it doubly difficult to even consider anything new, or that might challenge our status quo. We practice the hedgehog concept of protecting what we already have.

It is a deep founded conservative principle to be resistant to change. I am no different; when a new idea is presented, the most natural emotion is to say or think, "That would never work, here."

Studies which I have not read, so purely as a quote from instruction, have stated that it takes about 18 months for the human psyche to accept a totally new idea. For me, it could even be slower than that. When I was first introduced to low stress animal handling and Bud Williams, I remember being so resistant, stating, "We already do that here."

Anecdotal or not, it was indeed about a year and a half before I found myself deeply entrenched in the new methods, and realized I was a rank amateur stockman. This isn't the only example of this behavior as I look at my life and others'.

One of the most interesting parts of WSGA conventions is the tradeshow and the blend of people there. Often you can hear people talking about all elements of the business and our personal lives, and eventually we all learn new and interesting things that we can implement (after 18 months of thought!)

We have made one of our mission statements on the ranch to include the words "Embrace Change." I think that epitomizes parts of our operation. This constant change could include different classes of animals, even goats and our first llama!

And we have had more than our fair share of wrecks and exponential learning curve because of this attitude. However, ultimately change is positive for us.

Change is the only way we grow. In a world where everything is moving at a faster and faster pace around us, if we remain standing still, we will lose sight of first base. Its ever truer as each year passes by, that we must balance wisdom borne of bad judgement and its child, experience, with the intentional attitude of being willing to experiment and try new things. Change is also fun; I get bored if things are not moving in a new, exciting direction. As younger producers, we are the ones who often are willing to implement change, either by choice or as the product of necessity under our economic circumstances. Our mission is to "*generate opportunities for young producers to be successful and passionate about the livestock industry in Wyoming.*" Change is our game! Therefore, we at the YPA would like to challenge everyone this year to try something new in your personal lives or business.

As a final thought, back to the idea of being in a rut, it's true that we are probably in one always. We simply jump out of our old one and into a new one!! Sometimes that leads to a bumpy ride indeed, when you are on the front edge of a new thing. However, maybe a more hopeful way to express it, is not as a rut, but a groove.

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If we can find our groove it generally means we are settled, mature in our decisions, and when we find our new groove through process, it's a much smoother ride. And the process can be made smoother by learning from experiences of others, even if not always correct, they can still benefit us to learn and perhaps shorten the learning curve. Indeed, our mental well-being and in no small way our eventual success is a factor of our mindset. Using the experience of our mentors can help our runt become a groove. So, let's stop thinking about being in a rut, and continue to find our groove, and have a prosperous rest of the year!! From all of us at YPA and WSGA we hope you have a great spring season and look forward to seeing you at the 150th Celebration.

~ Sage

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE *ROUNDUP*

EDUCATIONAL SERIES WRAP UP 1ST YEAR, START OF 2ND YEAR IN NEW LOCATIONS

It is hard to believe the first year of the education and outreach series ended in December of 2021. Five regional events in Cody, Gillette, Farson, Laramie, and Douglas provided presentations from a local livestock producer or business owner present the importance of membership in trade organizations and an education session by Dallas Mount of Ranch Management Consultants (RMC) entitled "Business Leadership on YOUR Ranch". This provided attendees the resources or tools to make business decisions and reinforce business planning as a priority in the operation. A big thank you to Dallas Mount for speaking and all our community supporters and sponsors. Below in our *Riding for the Brand* section, you can see all the sponsors and donors from our 2021 series!

YPA and WSGA is excited to announce that year two is underway with new locations and new presenters. The first event of 2022 was in Sheridan on March 10th with the presentation of "Profitable Ranching" by Burke Teichert. The event had close to 80 attendees! Our next event is scheduled for May 11th in Lyman, WY at the Lyman Heritage Barn from noon to 5pm. If you are interested in attending or sponsoring the event, please reach out to WSGA office or email YPA at wyoingypa@gmail.com. All future event locations and dates will be posted to WSGA website and all social media platforms. We look forward to seeing you there!



Photos Left to Right: Dallas Mount of RMC (Gillette), Haley Clark of Region IV YPA (Farson), WSGA Member Jim Rogers (Laramie)

President – Sage Askin
Region I – Nate Kane
Region IV – Haley Clark

Vice President – Michael McGinnis
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YPA Member Committees

- Education & Outreach – Cameron Smith, Chair
- Social, Recruitment & Events – Nate Kane, Chair
- Policy: Tyler Gardner, Chair
- Public Relations & Media: Kendall Roberts (Co-Chair) & Karen Drumhiller (Co-Chair)
- Finance: Katie Scarbrough, Chair

Interested in a committee? Message us on Facebook or email us at wyoingypa@gmail.com.

MAY BEEF MONTH – BEST OF BEEF PHOTO CONTEST 2022

May is coming up quick and you know what that means? **BEST OF BEEF MONTH PHOTO CONTEST!** Look for our post on May 1st for contest participation and rules. Start looking through your camera or phone and pick your favorite/best beef photo for our members and supporters to vote on! Who knows, you may be our next cover photo winner! The winning photo will become our new Facebook page cover for one year, and will be featured on Newsletters, Facebook, and Instagram.



Top Photo: 2020 Winner Kahla Mills, Gillette, WY



Bottom Photo: 2021 Winner Hunter Petsch, Meriden, WY

HERD IT HERE FIRST – EVENTS CALENDER

May 11th, 2022 – Lyman, WY: Region IV Educational Series with Burke Teichert “Profitable Ranching”

May 1st- 31st, 2022: May Beef Month! Be sure to submit your beef photos for the 3rd Annual May Best of Beef Photo Contest. Details mentioned above and will be advertised on the social media platforms starting April 25th.

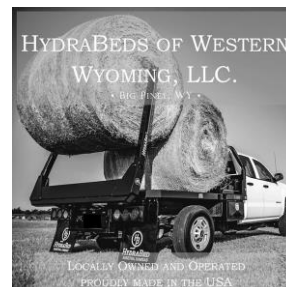
June 8th-11th, 2022 – Cheyenne, WY: WSGA 150th Celebration and Convention. Check out www.wysga.org for more on the convention events and activities.

June 8th, 2022 – Cheyenne, WY: YPA Membership meeting. Time and location TBD.

ALL EVENTS CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.WYSGA.ORG OR ON WSGA AND YPA SOCIAL MEDIA

RIDING FOR THE BRAND – A THANK YOU TO SUPPORTERS & SPONSORS

A big THANK YOU to all supporters and sponsors! We look forward to introducing you to new supporters following our events.



Broken Anvil Ranch LLC



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STABLE CONNECTION

WEBSITE: WWW.WYSGA.ORG - Click the tab “Programs” and find “Young Producers Assembly”.

Facebook www.facebook.com/WSGAYoungProducers/

Instagram www.instagram.com/wsga_youngproducers/

Email: womingypa@gmail.com WSGA Office: 307.638.3942

A BIT OF WYO - FUN FACT ABOUT WYOMING AGRICULTURE AND HISTORY!

Love spring and summer sports? One might ask why is that important to the ag industry... well, one cow hide can make 144 baseballs, 20 footballs, or 12 basketballs. Wyoming has over 680,000 beef cows based on the last USDA- NASS report in January 2022. If you do the math, that is a LOT of sports balls!

Have a fun fact? Send them to womingypa@gmail.com and be entered to win \$50 Visa Gift Card. Winner will be selected on the next volume of the *Stirrup*.

The Mission of the Young Producers Assembly is to generate opportunities for young producers to be successful and passionate about the livestock industry in Wyoming.

FARM & RANCH TRANSITION

Is it time to have a discussion?

MEDIATION CAN HELP.

CALL THE
 WYOMING AGRICULTURE &
 NATURAL RESOURCES MEDIATION
 PROGRAM

FOR MORE INFORMATION
 888-996-9278
AGRICULTURE.WY.GOV/DIVISIONS/NRP/MEDIATION-PROGRAM

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